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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 46 (a)
Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly

Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The General Assembly, recalling its resolution 53/168, adopted on 10 December 1998 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled "Fifty-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

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Fifty-third session
Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Senegal: draft resolution

Emergency assistance to the Sudan

The General Assembly,

Recalling it resolutions 43/8 of 18 October 1988 and 43/52 of 6 December 1988, 44/12 of 24 October 1989, 45/226 of 21 December 1990, 46/178 of 19 December 1991, 47/162 of 18 December 1992, 48/200 of 21 December 1993, 49/21 K of 20 December 1994, 50/58 J of 22 December 1995, 51/30 I of 17 December 1996 and 52/169 F of 16 December 1997 on emergency assistance to the Sudan,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Welcoming agreed conclusions 1998/1 of the Economic and Social Council,[2] adopted by the Council at the humanitarian segment of its substantive session of 1998, in which, among other things, the Council reaffirmed that international cooperation to address emergency situations should be provided in accordance with international law and national laws, and that the affected State has the primary role in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance within its territory,

Welcoming also the agreements reached by the parties to Operation Lifeline Sudan to facilitate delivery of relief assistance to affected populations, as well as the progress made by the Emergency Relief Coordinator and the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in strengthening the coordination of the Operation,

Noting with appreciation the increased contributions for 1998 inter-agency appeal for Operation Lifeline Sudan and the progress made in the operation following a lower level of contributions in the first quarter, and noting also that considerable relief needs still remain

[1] A/53/307.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/53/3), chap. VII, para. 5.

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to be addressed, in particular in the areas of food and non-food assistance, including assistance to combat such diseases as malaria, and for logistics, emergency recovery, rehabilitation and development,

Expressing concern over the disastrous consequences of floods that have occurred in various parts of the country lately, and welcoming the assistance appeal launched by the United Nations in that regard,

Calling for an early resolution to the conflict, and expressing concern that its continuation further increases the suffering of the civilian population and undermines the effectiveness of international, regional and national humanitarian assistance,

Reaffirming the need for all parties to continue to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations in implementing emergency assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicines, shelter and health care, for which safe and unhindered access to the affected populations has to be respected by all parties,

Recognizing the need in emergency situations to ensure the smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development so as to reduce dependence on external food aid and other relief services,

1. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the cooperation by the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, including the agreements and arrangements achieved to facilitate relief operations towards improvement of United Nations assistance to affected areas, and encourages the continuation of that cooperation;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the donor community, United Nations agencies, governmental and non-governmental organizations for the contributions so far made to the humanitarian needs of the Sudan, and calls upon them to continue their assistance;

3. *Stresses* the need for Operation Lifeline Sudan to be operated and managed with a view to ensuring its efficiency, transparency and effectiveness, with the full involvement and cooperation of the Government of the Sudan, in cognizance with the relevant Operation Lifeline Sudan agreements reached by the parties, as well as consultations in the preparation of the consolidated annual inter-agency appeal for the Operation,

4. *Recognizes* the need for neutrality and impartiality of humanitarian activities, and the full cooperation of all parties, and stresses in this connection that Operation Lifeline Sudan should operate within the principle of national sovereignty and the framework of international cooperation in accordance with the provisions of relevant international law;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute generously to the emergency needs, recovery and development of the country, and urges all States, donor countries, the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance to alleviate the plight of the population affected by the recent floods;

6. *Urges* the international community to give assistance for the rehabilitation of transportation means and infrastructure vital for the provision of relief supplies in the Sudan and their cost-effectiveness, and in this context stresses the importance of continued cooperation by all the parties involved so as to facilitate and improve the delivery of relief supplies;

7. *Calls upon* the donor community and the organizations of the United Nations system to provide financial, technical and medical assistance, guided by the actions called for by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions to combat such diseases as malaria and other epidemics in the Sudan;

8. *Takes note of and is encouraged* by the signing of the April 1997 Peace Agreement, as well as the convening of rounds of talks between the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army faction under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development of the Countries of the Horn of Africa, calls for the intensification of its efforts with more frequent and regular talks to achieve a lasting peaceful solution and in this connection welcomes the announced ceasefire, and calls upon the parties to the conflict to maintain and broaden the ceasefire in order to ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

9. *Urges* the international community to continue to support national programmes of rehabilitation, voluntary resettlement and reintegration of returnees and the internally displaced, as well as assistance to refugees;

10. *Stresses* the imperative of ensuring the safety of humanitarian personnel, as well as safe and unhindered access for providing relief assistance to all affected populations, and the importance of strict observance of the principles and guidelines of Operation Lifeline Sudan, and of international humanitarian law reaffirming the necessity for humanitarian personnel to respect the national laws of the country;

11. *Urges* all parties involved to continue to offer all feasible assistance, including facilitating the movement of relief supplies and personnel, so as to guarantee the success of Operation Lifeline Sudan in all affected parts of the country, with special emphasis on national capacity-building in the humanitarian field for governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as on meeting emergency relief needs;

12. *Welcomes* the signing by the Government of the Sudan of the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines, urges all parties to the conflict to desist from using them, calls upon the international community to refrain from supplying mines to the region, and urges the international community and United Nations agencies to provide necessary assistance related to mine action in the Sudan;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize and coordinate resources and support for Operation Lifeline Sudan, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the emergency situation in the affected areas and the recovery, rehabilitation and development of the country.